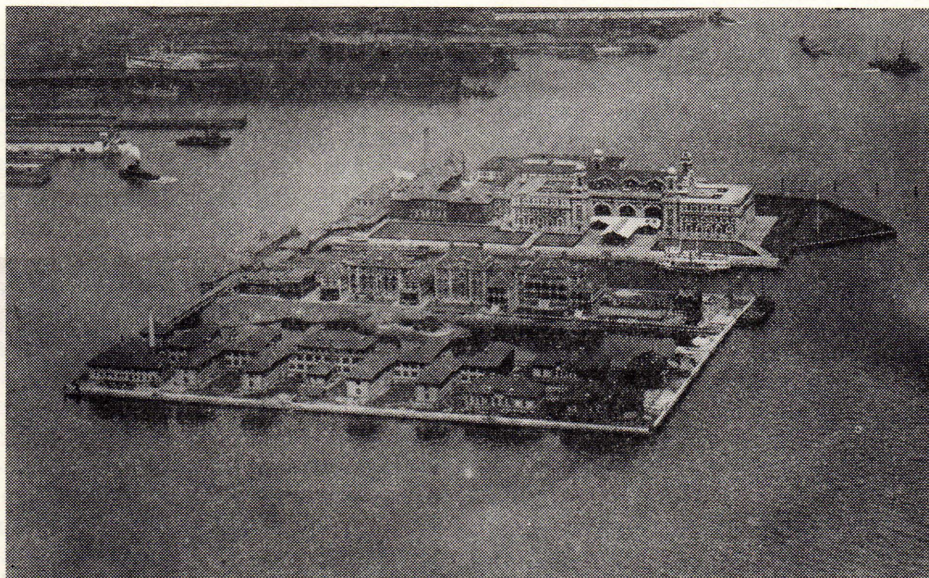


OCULUS

NEW YORK CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



DECEMBER 1962



ELLIS ISLAND—A NEW MEMORIAL PARK?

The Chapter strongly urged government officials last month to initiate the necessary steps to convert Ellis Island to a memorial park. The appeal was made to Mayor Wagner, Governor Rockefeller, New York Senators Javits and Keating, and Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine to intercede and reserve the land for a use in keeping with its historic associations. Senator Muskie is head of the Senate subcommittee charged with making a decision on the Island's disposition.

In a letter to each of the officials, Frederick J. Woodbridge, Chapter president, proposed that the island be transferred from the General Services Administration to the Department of the Interior or other appropriate Government department where it could be held for public development.

Mr. Woodbridge said that the Chapter has been notified by GSA that it had never received a proposal for acquisition of Ellis Island

from any federal, state, or local government agency for any purpose. "This would seem to open the way for a proposal for the utilization of the island in the public interest," he stated.

Mr. Woodbridge pointed out that since 1956 the Chapter and other civic-minded groups have fought to keep the island from being exploited by private developers. "This fight cannot be waged interminably. Once it is won by a commercial group an historic site will be forever lost to the public domain," he said.

The Chapter indicated that it would cooperate with the AIA national headquarters and other chapters throughout the country to sponsor and conduct a competition for a design of the Island as a shrine and public park.

Chapter members are urged to communicate their ideas and support to OCULUS and the Executive Committee.

A LESSON FROM LONDON

The Chapter's fight to create more close-in parks for New York City—e.g., Welfare Island, Breezy Point, and now Ellis Island (see this page)—gained some arguments recently from this letter to the New York TIMES by George Raymond, Chairman of Pratt Institute's Planning Department.

"... The inadequacy of Manhattan's parks cannot be offset by such distant facilities as Van Cortlandt, Pelham Bay, La Tourette, Jamaica Bay, etc. Open spaces should not lie at the end of an occasional weekend trek but should be available for daily use.

London's neighborhoods are full of squares, public and private, which are sacrosanct refuges from the stresses of the modern metropolis. Here, on the other hand, an aroused citizenry had to fight to save Washington Square, the only substantial park (though quite small, by London standards) serving Greenwich Village and the fast-growing lower Fifth Avenue neighborhood.

London is creating sizable (27-acre to 135-acre) new parks in heavily populated areas. Here, the pressure for increased densities in redevelopment areas seems to be almost irresistible. London's firmness in withstanding speculative pressures is a major component of its successful park policy.

London is not afraid of committing itself to a specific, clearly stated physical plan that permits acquisition of two-acre to three-acre parcels (which may be all the city can afford at a given time) which eventually become parks of 135 acres. Only by relatively inflexible allegiance to such a specific plan

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OCULUS

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IMPROVING NEW YORK

(From a recent editorial in the New York TIMES)

'No Architect'

Mayor Wagner recently presented certificates of appointment to 21 leading New Yorkers who are serving as members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Housing and Redevelopment Board. The ceremony unwittingly called attention to the fact that this important advisory group directly concerned with the rebuilding of the urban environment includes no architect.

"No architect," until very recently, seems to have been the single consistent policy in New York's less-than-consistent planning and urban renewal practices. Not until Harmon Goldstone's appointment to the City Planning Commission last year was there anyone in official capacity who was qualified to consider the design factors that are ultimately responsible for making new buildings and new neighborhoods a positive, pleasurable addition to the New York scene.

Good business without good design does not make good cities. The city with the best urban redevelopment record to date—Philadelphia—has an architecture-oriented, architect-headed City Planning Commission. William Slayton, the Federal Government's Commissioner of Urban Renewal, has stated that the Urban Renewal Administration "is going to emphasize the importance of design in all projects as

it never has before," to avoid "more monuments to sterility, negativity and futility." New York's persistent addiction to renewal-in-a-rut remains one of the city's administrative mysteries.

A Deadly Carnival

While the Battle of Penn Station continues, let us not forget that other monument to the great age of the railroads, Grand Central. Here the main part of the terminal has been saved, but its constant erosion may some day go so far as to make mockery of the original. When that happens, there may indeed be reason to tear it down.

The railroads may need money, but they aren't going to solve their basic problems by turning Grand Central into a bit of Times Square indoors. With strong participation from the New York Chapter two years ago, public outcry prevented the high ceiling of the waiting room from being replaced by bowling alleys. But what has been happening since? A plethora of lockers of various shapes and designs have been scattered around in a chaotic manner. Despite the station's numerous food counters, vending machines have been added to fill up any wall space not covered by lockers. Crowding traffic even more seriously, a principal passageway has been constricted by shops placed so that it is almost necessary to walk through them to reach the street. In addition, there are more and more garish advertising signs and a huge illuminated clock that is totally unnecessary.

A station should not be dull and solemn, and Grand Central is not. For years it has had many shops and restaurants as permanent parts of its life. To this, certain temporary displays in the main hall add sparkle and color. But a permanent carnival may bring extinction.

S. Hart Moore

CARS VS. PEOPLE— WHERE DO WE GO?

His bright sense of humor notwithstanding, Percival Goodman paints a sad picture of the future progress of the automobile across our landscape and, in particular our cityscape. In an evening lecture at

Pratt Institute on November 19, he described the effect on New York as the automobile population continues to grow faster than the human population (which he somehow concluded would reach 32 million by the year 2000). Autos would, he said, pre-empt enormous proportions of our limited land and would not get anyone to any likely destination with reasonable speed or comfort, not to mention economic efficiency.

Goodman did not propose the usual solution, however, of diverting some of the staggering resources now being poured into highways to the improvement of rail transit facilities. He considers the latter, although more efficient, no real solution. Instead, he challenged the validity of the large city itself. Checking off the economic reasons for the large city's existence—power sources, sources of skilled labor, transportation junctions—he found none of them valid in an age of power transmission and instant communication. Further, he attempted to shatter the argument of cultural interaction by pointing out that New York is poor in cultural achievement per capita, compared with Philadelphia or Boston—and impoverished compared to ancient Athens (whose peak population was 120,000). If all this is true, then the largest cities should begin to dwindle without conscious effort on the part of responsible officials. The only question left unanswered: Where else do we go?

John M. Dixon

AGBANY MEETS WITH CITY ON PENN STATION

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, members of the Action Group for Better Architecture in New York met with city officials to explore further the possibilities of saving Pennsylvania Station.

Meeting with Deputy Mayor Cavanagh, City Corporation Counsel Larkin, and Executive Secretary Slote were AGBANY representatives Norval White (Chairman), Jan Rowan, Elliott Willensky, James T. Burns, Jr., Jordan Gruz-en, Norman Jaffe, and Theodore

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A "LETTER FROM THE MOON"—ABOUT NEW YORK CITY PLANNING

By Harmon Goldstone, AIA

OCULUS recently asked Mr. Goldstone if he would tell his fellow Chapter members how it felt to be the first architect on the New York City Planning Commission, after some initial months in office. Here is his reply.

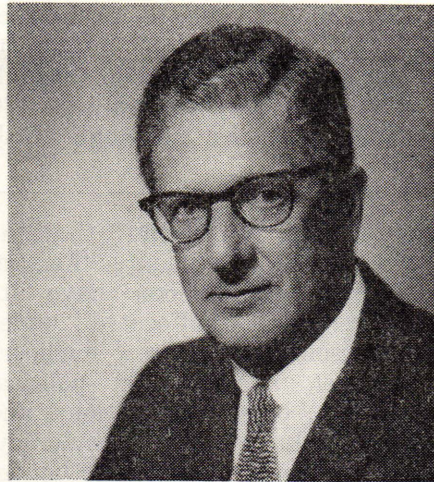
Some people have asked about the life of an architect on the Planning Commission as though it might be something like life on the other side of the moon. The truth, unfortunately, is not so sensational, for city planning is really nothing more than the "other side" of architecture. A clear view of this may help towards understanding what the Planning Commission does, what it cannot do, and how architecture fits in at various points along the way.

It has long been recognized—and accepted with greater or less grace—that architecture has another side. The days of the architect as a corduroy-coated, beret-crowned esthete were already being counted when Peter Cooper was rolling his first I-Beam at Trenton and Elisha Otis was demonstrating, at New York's Crystal Palace Exposition, the new safety device on his hoisting platform. In the century that has followed these dramatic events the practice of architecture has been altogether transformed by the explosive development of construction technology, by the ever-increasing complexity of requirements, and by a steady tightening of economic limitations. Contemporary clients are few and far between who have the means, the space, the flexibility and, above all, the desire to commission a building that can be, first and foremost, the creative expression of an architect.

This does not mean that the architect is no longer creative, but simply that creativity has shifted to the "other side" of architecture. Instead of spinning a design out of himself—as the painter or poet does—the architect today often works in a judicial capacity, as an arbiter among experts. Certainly never before has so much of a busy architect's day been taken up with listening to bankers, promoters, engineers of a dozen varieties, experts and consultants, manufacturers and salesmen, scientists,

economists, lawyers—and even his client! And from this welter of technical advice and special pleadings, he somehow sifts and balances, appraises and harmonizes the forces that go into his design.

In city planning it is much the same. There are traffic consultants, demographers, and social scientists to be heard; tax experts, transit specialists, fiscal and political policy makers, real estate operators, shipping men, educators, aviation technicians, doctors, public health and recreation directors, housing officials, government workers, land-



scape designers, contractors, labor leaders, architects, and even the public! Through all the special pleading of special interests the Planning Commission must balance and appraise the forces—usually divergent and often directly in conflict—and somehow reconcile them for what seems the best, in the long run, for the most people.

The process is exactly what an architect does every day. The time scale of cities, however, seems of a glacial stateliness when compared to the ephemeral life of a single building. The architect can see, and be told, of his mistakes. The city planner cannot live long enough to learn the full impact of his.

City planning is "inside-out" architecture. The design of a group of buildings, a street, a city square, a vista, a visual accent, are problems of exterior, not interior, space. As any architect knows who has ever put two or more buildings together, or who has designed even one building with full awareness of

its surroundings, the handling of "excluded" space has every bit as much challenge and fascination as what is conventionally thought of as architecture. It is, quite literally, inside-out design.

Unfortunately—or perhaps not so unfortunately—the City Planning Commission is not a Civic Design Commission: it does not design the physical aspect of the city that everyone blames it for. It merely controls, directs, sets the stage, or applies the brakes to the actors. For better or worse, New York is not the Rome of Nero nor the Paris of Baron Haussmann, to be rebuilt by imperial fiat. While this may sometimes be frustrating, it is, in the long run, wise. It is the price, and well worth it, that we pay for the privileges of democracy.

Yet in this day-to-day process, negative if you will, there is a second sort of "inside-out" architecture. Just as a thousand years of British and American courts have erected the monumental edifice of the common law, so a hundred decisions a week—an approval here, a denial there, a modification suggested, a regulation proposed, an enterprise encouraged, another relocated—actually are producing, again on the scale of geologic time, a tangible effect on the visible aspect of the city.

A potent tool toward this end is, of course, the new zoning resolution. This will not in itself produce a beautiful city but it will encourage the possibility of better architecture through the greater freedom allowed in arranging bulk. It will encourage the design of open arcades and landscaped plazas. It will keep at least some parked automobiles and unloading trucks off the streets. It will ultimately make for more attractive neighborhoods to live and work in. It will certainly bring densities down and thus bring more light and air into the city.

A more subtle, but perhaps equally effective force in molding the future shape of the city, is the Capital Budget. In allocating capital funds, the Planning Commission largely determines how much public

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BOOKS

AIA School Plant Studies — a selection 1952 - 1962. A compilation of 40 separate school studies covering such subjects as: selecting an architect, developing educational specifications, stockplans, estimating costs and planning maintenance, environment and esthetics, theatres, kindergartens, small and cluster schools.

The studies have been prepared by members of the AIA Committee on School Buildings and Educational Facilities, and by selected specialists, to help architects, educators and others become aware of school building problems and trends. Size: 8 1/4" x 10 3/4". 150 pages, soft cover. Price: \$2.50 postpaid.

Education in Architecture — 21 pp.

LETTERS

A SOUND PROPOSAL

Sirs: This fall the architectural journals carried news of a report issued by an Ad Hoc Committee of the B.R.A.B., recommending the establishment of a "National Institute of Building Research." The comment thereon published in *Architectural and Engineering News* of September led me to feel that a program for building research in the U. S. is of profound importance to the architectural profession and the building industry. The November Issue of the *AIA Journal* also urged all architects to buy and read this report (B.R.A.B. 2101 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington 25, D.C. — \$1.25).

Thus prompted, I suggested at a meeting of the Chapter's Technical Committee that we ponder the implications of this proposal, and it was resolved to canvass the views of the Chapter Membership. We may be on the threshold of a vital development in the realm of the building arts, to which architects in and out of the AIA could offer imaginative guidance or constructive alternatives. A cursory sounding of opinion among a few colleagues evoked spontaneous resistance to the proposal in the form of skepticism and distrust based, it

The New Jersey Society of Architects and The New Jersey Chapter, A.I.A., at their Convention of June, 1958, spent three days discussing architectural education, conceiving it as a continuous experience that engages the architect throughout his entire professional life. The topics "Education at College Level," "Education during the Intermediate Years," and "Education after Registration" were each assigned to two of the six continuing panelists. Their opening remarks, and the provocative discussions that developed from them, are reported here for their timeliness and importance to the whole profession. Thomas H. Creighton, FAIA, served as moderator of the seminars. Available through the New Jersey Chapter, 120 Halsted St., East Orange, N. J.

seems, upon the "belief" that the proposed N.I.B.R., being a "Federal Agency," would soon have its worthy goals suffocated under cumbersome procedures, mediocre personnel, axe-grinding, political pressures, budget limitations, and other weaknesses of bureaucracy. A & E News questioned the desirability of a "new agency," suggesting that what may be needed is merely *betterment* of the existing agencies dealing with architectural research.

Existing facilities do need betterment; they are un-coordinated, proprietary, and limited in scope, funds, and effectiveness. Moreover, continual fragmentation of the profession and industry (as evidenced in the emergence of C.S.I. and A.R.A.) is symptomatic of the need for a disinterested agency to coordinate and initiate comprehensive research programs, and to collect, correlate and issue data pertaining to the building arts.

It should, therefore, be the resolve of any revamped research agency:

- 1) to promote research along the frontier of all the arts and sciences as they affect the Building Art, and to emphasize "search rather than re-search," as Walter Gropius aptly admonished;
- 2) to invite investigation of new, intuitive approaches to prob-

PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES

The Chapter's Public Affairs Counsel has developed opportunities for three feature stories to which Chapter members can contribute. Materials used will be credited. One story is on remodeling of stationery stores, another is on remodeling of hardware/housewares stores, and the third is on remodeling of sporting goods stores. Photos and information should be sent to Tod Potash at Jack Bernstein Associates, 37 West 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

lems in structural and environmental technology;

- 3) to make facilities and findings, supplemented by books and visual aids, easily available to every responsible individual;
- 4) to gather and integrate data from the fund of international architectural experience, independently and with U.N. collaboration.

I believe it is important that architects make known their views regarding the proposed N.I.B.R. Here is a great opportunity for the AIA to lead in a collaborative effort, along with scientists, engineers, contractors, producers, educators and theoreticians, in formulating a guiding philosophy for a better Building Research Program, to the benefit of the industry, the profession and the public.

Bertram L. Bassuk

OCULUS heartily endorses the substance of Mr. Bassuk's remarks, and urges readers to make known their own views. Address the Editor, Oculus, c/o the Chapter office.

Sirs: I want to thank you for the very nice article on the "Temple of Understanding" written by Charles K. Robinson.

I feel that the project is a truly constructive one in this era of potential destruction. The emphasis on the spiritual rather than the material is certainly a worthwhile approach, and one that deserves world-wide support.

Lathrop Douglass

MEETING AND COMPETITION ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

The Joint Annual Conference on Church Architecture, including a major competition exhibition of church structures and ecclesiastical arts and crafts, will be held at the Olympic Hotel in Seattle, Wash., March 4-8, 1963. Speakers will include Pietro Belluschi FAIA, MIT architectural dean and leading church designer; Dr. Martin Marty, theologian and author; and Rev. Edward N. West, Canon Sacristan of New York's cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Awards will be made to churches on exhibition in what is described as the largest and most important display of church architecture in the U.S. In addition, there will be awards to artists, painters, sculptors, and craftsmen; an extensive

exhibit of products; panel discussions; and a tour of churches in the Seattle area.

For further information contact the Church Architectural Guild, DuPont Circle Building, Washington 6, D.C., or the National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27.

ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 3

The annual meeting of the Chapter, at which the election of new officers will be announced, is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 3, at 12:30 P.M., Gallery "A", 115 East 40th St. Please mail in your letter ballots and reservation blanks as soon as possible.



WOMEN'S ARCHITECTURAL AUXILIARY

There has been much interest in the outcome of our first tour of architects' homes, held October 16th. I am sure you will be happy to hear that our efforts have earned us over \$2000, of which a substantial part will be placed in the scholarship fund for grants at the end of the year.

Among persons signing our guest register were visitors from nearly half of these United States and Venezuela, Holland, Germany, and Japan. Some 400 people entered and enjoyed the gracious homes generously offered by the Thomas Creightons, Mr. Edwin Harris, Jr., the Robert Cutlers, the Ronald Allworks and the Allmon Fordyces, to each of whom we are deeply indebted.

Accolades to our hostesses: Mrs. John Burrows, head hostess at the Creighton home, and her co-workers, Mrs. William Leyh, Mrs. Samuel Arlen, Mrs. Philip J. Wilker, and Miss Bonnie Burrows; Mrs. Alonzo Clark, head hostess at the Allwork home who was aided by Mrs. Roger Spross, Mrs. Charles L. Macchi, Mrs. Peter Gale Moore, Mrs. G. E. Kidder Smith; Mrs. Olindo Grossi heading the hostess committee at the Fordyce home with Mrs. Douglas Haskell, Mrs. Lathrop Douglas, Mrs. Michael Ra-

doslovich, Mrs. Carl Kroepel and Mrs. Jule Von Sternberg; Mrs. William Delehanty at the Harris home who worked with Mrs. Sherman Schneider, Mrs. Harold Sleeper, Mrs. Albert Lee Hawes, Mrs. Linn Cowles, Mrs. W. O. Biernachi-Poray, and Mrs. Max Abramovitz. At the Cutler home Mrs. Morris Ketchum was assisted by Mrs. Percival Goodman and Mrs. Robert Jacobs. Mrs. Henkel at the A.I.A. and her assistants were also of invaluable help. We have been encouraged by the enthusiasm and the response to recommend to the next Board that the Tour of Homes be an annual event, and many suggestions have been made to make it even more outstanding. Write in and let us have yours.

As the holidays approach all our thoughts turn to the Fourth Annual Doric Cotillion which will take place on Wednesday, December 26th. Preparations are being made for this elegant party, which will be a dinner dance this year. The Ticket Committee will be contacting you personally before the invitations are sent out, so that we can include your friends and reserve space for you and them. We appreciate the support, and look forward to seeing you at this gala event.

CHAPTER, NYSA DANCES SET FOR FEB. 21, DEC. 18

The Chapter's 96th Anniversary Dinner Dance is to be held again this year in the attractive Terrace Room of the Hotel Plaza. Reserve the date now—Thursday evening, February 21st, the night prior to Washington's Birthday. Plan to join the Chapter in this once-a-year social event.

Last year's successful party, says the Meetings Committee, will be relived in "one of the most intimate ballrooms in the city. The dignified and rhythmic airs of Ben Cutler and his orchestra will guide us to new heights of togetherness."

Join with your friends and colleagues now and plan to attend this gala party. Watch the mail for the reservation slip to be sent in mid-January.

* * *

The New York Society of Architects announces that its 1962 Gala Reception and Dinner Dance will be held in the Royal Ballroom of the Americana Hotel on Tuesday, December 18, 1962. A superb dinner, top entertainment and an outstanding personality as guest speaker are promised. In addition, the Sidney L. Strauss Memorial Award will be presented. Reservation at \$12.50 per person may be made by sending a check to the Society office at 101 Park Ave.

"DESIGN IN STEEL" ENTRIES CLOSE JAN. 18

The "Design In Steel" Award Program, sponsored by American Iron and Steel Institute and coordinated by the National Design Center, is now accepting entries in eight categories of structures and products for its 1963 judging. Its purpose is to develop a better understanding of steel as a versatile, modern material to which the creative designer can profitably turn his attention.

Awards will be given for outstanding use of eight varieties of steel. Each award will recognize a designer, engineer or architect, or team of such individuals, for their imaginative use of steel in a product, component or structure that has been offered for sale or

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School

New members of the school committee are Misses Courland and Scott and Messrs. Rooney, Schenck, Schwartzman, and Webb. Walter Rooney was elected Vice Chairman, replacing J. Stanley Sharp, and Miss Nehama Courland became Committee Secretary.

Topics discussed were campus planning for higher education; the recent visit of an architect-educator team from Scotland; the development of a list of New York Board of Education schools for visiting architects; and the possibility of a monthly informal discussion of ideas and information among those currently designing schools in New York.

Major topic discussed concerned plans for a seminar on Urban School Design, to take place next spring. Sponsors would be the Chapter and the New York City Board of Education; assistant sponsors would be AASA, Metropolitan School Facilities Planning Group, and the Facilities Planning Office of the U. S. Office of Education. Those to be invited include school architects and administrators; delegates from the national AIA School Committee; Educational Facilities Laboratory representatives; members of the Departments of Education of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania; and, possibly, delegates from schools of education and colleges.

Hospitals and Health

Alonzo W. Clark III, Chairman, has been appointed by New York City Commissioner of Hospitals Ray Trussel to the Advisory Committee to the Department of Hospitals for revising the Code for Proprietary Hospitals. Prior to this, on November 1st, Clark and Louis Viola, a member of the Hospital & Health Committee, appeared at a hearing on the proposed revision of the Nursing Home Code. They endorsed the principle of the proposed code revision but urged that certain internal contradictions and conflicts with federal and state requirements be reconciled before final adoption.

The Research Subcommittee reported that Columbia University is interested in cosponsoring a research activity with the Chapter. Details will be worked out in meetings with Dean Colbert and Dr. Trussell. Robert Jacob's proposed project for establishing criteria for the construction of a surgical center at Montefiore Hospital has been taken over by the hospital, which declined the sponsorship of AIA.

Office Practice

Projects under study are overhead categories, liaison with other professional organizations, and revision of the AIA Handbook. Revisions in the first project were tentatively accepted after discussion. A letter to be sent to other organizations is being drafted. And it was announced that the deadline for suggestions for AIA Handbook revisions is Jan. 1.

House Consulting

A project for an exhibition of notable home remodeling in New York City, to appear in branches of the Irving Trust Company, was discussed and met with encouragement. A suggestion was made to investigate a similar show on superior single-family homes. Mr. Hall suggested the committee consider sponsoring a small redevelopment as a non-profit project; he will discuss the proposal with FHA.

Technical

The remainder of 1962 and some of the 1963 program of lectures has been established: December 11, "Models II;" January 15, "Computers and Critical Path;" February 26, "Site Techniques;" March 12, "Fire Safety;" April 9, a tour or paper on "Advanced Techniques;" May 14, to be announced.

Awards

The Producers' Council exhibit is still circulating, and arrangements are being made to show it at the Corning Glass Building. New categories for citations in the awards program were proposed, including building plazas, fountains, sculpture, street planting, graphics, and a special award for citizens' com-

mittees who perform an effective service.

Housing

Mr. Dadras was appointed Secretary of the committee. The committee approved a motion that the Public Housing Subcommittee shall be given power to draw up a program outlining all topics to be discussed in meetings with New York City Housing Authority officials. After approval of its recommendations by the full committee, meetings should be arranged with city officials.

Brunner Scholarship

The committee discussed the past and future of the Brunner Award, how to achieve more publicity for it, and, most importantly, how to take measures to insure improved standards and quality of the applications and submissions. Some measures discussed were the formation of an "idea" subcommittee to prepare a list of likely candidates to send material on the scholarship; broadening the area of publicity so that more qualified people in architecture and the allied arts are aware of the program; and holding an exhibition of Arnold Brunner's drawings.

James T. Burns, Jr.

AIA MEMBERS INVITED TO 1963 RIBA MEETING

The 1963 conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects will be held on July 16-19 in Sheffield, England. In view of the fact that the conference falls in National Productivity Year, the theme will be "The Architect and Productivity." Discussion groups will include: Productivity in the Architect's Office; The Architect's Contribution to Productivity in the Building Industry; The Architect's Contribution to Productivity as the Organiser of Environment; and The Educational Implications of Productivity.

As always, RIBA welcomes as delegates to the conference any AIA members who are in Britain at that time. For a copy of the program, write G. R. Ricketts, Secretary, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1.

LONDON—Continued from p. 1

can the desired end be achieved, years later, when the redevelopment of an area is completed.

The essential ingredient of London's success is, however, its sound population density policy. With great courage, London accepted the conclusion that if fewer people are to live in a given area in the future than live there today, the excess must be accommodated elsewhere. To make this possible, Britain launched its unique New and Expanded Towns programs, under which in the last 10 years or so some 400,000 persons, amply supplied with employment opportunities and community facilities, have been housed well beyond London's suburban belt.

To ask for better parks is not enough. Better parks can only be part of a better city. It is time New York abandoned the myth that the accumulated greeds of eight million people will add up to something worth while. . ."

PLANNING—Continued from p. 3

building goes where, and when. It guides the location and scheduling of schools and colleges, sewers and streets, bridges, housing and hospitals, parks, piers, garages, markets, prisons, police stations, and firehouses. Just as with zoning, budgeting forms a sort of inside-out mold into which structures will be poured, hopefully for their greatest effectiveness.

Finally, there sometimes arises the need for a special study of an area—such as downtown Brooklyn and the Manhattan Civic Center—for which outside architects and consultants are called in to make detailed plans. As the urban renewal program develops there may be further opportunities for the planning of whole neighborhoods, or at least the nuclei of neighborhoods—residential, commercial, civic, cultural. On such projects the consultants work closely with the Commission, and the commissioners may have an opportunity to become directly involved in civic design. It is perhaps here that architecture and city planning will be able to combine most effectively for livability and lasting values in the City of New York.

REGIONAL PLAN SETS UP GROUPS AND GOALS

By John M. Dixon

The Regional Plan Association has set up a unique program for informing the public and sounding out its opinions on the subject of metropolitan development. In November, announcements were sent out to 10,000 organizations in the 22-county area that the association is concerned with, inviting them to set up groups of from five to 15 members to take part in a five-week study program next March and April.

These groups will be supplied with packets of reading material and questionnaires intended to record their needs and desires in community environment. Groups will meet weekly and watch a half-hour television presentation after which the members will discuss the problems presented and fill out individual questionnaires. Although the invitations were sent to organizations known to be active in civic and community affairs, business, labor, politics, conservation, race relations, welfare, and religion, RPA will welcome study groups established by individuals specifically to take part in this program. (Contact the RPA at LO. 5-1714.)

The results of these informed responses will be used in establishing new recommendations and policies

for the development of the region. The association feels that new, widely accepted policies must be established and recognized by governing bodies as a basis for planning if we are to avoid the disadvantages of a "Spread City" development. RPA's Bulletin 100, published in September, is a 48-page study of the Spread City. It surveys the development trends of the region, projects these trends to 1985, and discusses the issues these projections raise.

The association anticipates a population increase of 6 million in the next 25 years, raising the regional total to 22 million. If the present trend of deterioration of the urban core and sprawling development on the periphery continues, the result will be a staggering expenditure of resources on private housing, utilities, and highways to produce a far from satisfactory living environment. Scattering of housing, industry, and commerce will force an almost total reliance on the private automobile, which itself will require vast expenditures of land and funds for roads. The abandonment or under-use of housing, schools, and public facilities in the urban core will constitute an economic loss. Vast amounts of

Continued overleaf

AGBANY, Continued from p. 2

Halperin, legal counsel to the organization. This meeting was a follow-up to a Sept. 10 meeting with Mayor Wagner, during which he told the group he would discuss the matter of the station with Larkin, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the City Planning Commission.

At the close of the latest meeting, Cavanagh assured AGBANY that, within two weeks, he will arrange a meeting of representatives from all interested parties to explore all facets of the problem. These groups include, in addition to AGBANY, the New York Chapter AIA, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Madison Square Garden Corporation, the American Institute of Planners, the Landmarks Preserva-

tion Commission, the City Planning Commission, and the Traffic Department.

STEEL—Continued from p. 5

completed after January 1, 1960.

The awards will be presented at a dinner in New York City, to be attended by representatives of the design, engineering and architectural professions, industry and the press.

Entries are not limited in number and may be made by you, by your associates, or by any other person in your behalf, but must be postmarked no later than January 18. For full information write to: National Design Center Board of Design, 415 East 53rd Street, New York 22.

valuable farm-land and potential recreation sites will be developed in the next 25 years — an area greater than the total area developed in the last 325 years.

The association is now working in two broad areas to try to make future development more rational and less wasteful. In the suburban areas, it will try to bring about changes in the zoning and taxing practices of the hundreds of local suburban governments. Studies indicate that zoning laws often call for far larger lot sizes than the

residents actually want, primarily as a means of maintaining prestige and high social standards, but also as a means of keeping school enrollment down. Industry is often attracted as a tax base and forced to accept inconvenient locations to minimize the cost of public utilities and roads. In the city core, the problem is to stop the flight of middle-class families tired of the inadequacy of city housing, schools, and recreation; the threat of crime; the obsolescence of transit, the difficulty of keeping a private car.

Recently, the association has taken a strong stand on the acquisition of the Breezy Point peninsula as a public recreation area. Stanley B. Tankel, RPA Planning Director, considers the issue a critical one for the survival of the city. This peninsula, he maintains, gives the city an opportunity, which will never be equalled again, to acquire a park within the city limits comparable in scale to Jones Beach, and to give the city dweller one of the amenities that may slow down his flight to the suburbs.

COMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 11 Technical Committee Lecture
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.
Topic: "Models II" United Scale Models Co.
- JANUARY 3 Annual Luncheon (Election of Officers)
Gallery A, Thurs., 12:30 P.M.
- JANUARY 15 Technical Committee Lecture
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.
Topic: "Computers and Critical Path"
Speaker: James J. Souder
- JANUARY 30 Hospital and Health Lecture
Gallery A, Wed., 5:15 P.M.
- FEBRUARY 7 Chapter-wide Hospital & Health Committee Dinner
Meeting; Biltmore Hotel, 43rd Street, at
6:30 P.M., Thurs.
Speaker: Dr. Jack C. Haldeman, Assistant Surgeon
General, Chief, Division of Hospital and Medical Facilities, Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare
- FEBRUARY 21 Anniversary Dinner
Thurs., Terrace Room, Plaza Hotel
5th Avenue & 59th Street
- FEBRUARY 26 Technical Committee Lecture
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.
Topic: "Site Techniques"
- MARCH 12 Technical Committee Lecture
Gallery A, Tues., 5:30 P.M.
Topic: "Fire Safety"
- APRIL 16 Pre-Convention Luncheon
Gallery A, Tues., 12:30 P.M.
- MAY 6-10 A.I.A. CONVENTION
Miami, Florida — Hotel Americana
- JUNE 5 Nominating Luncheon
Gallery A, Wed., 12:30 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP

CANDIDATES

Information regarding the qualifications of the following candidates for membership will be considered confidential by the Admissions Committee:

Corporate

Istvan Botond
Rosario D'Agrosa
George Thomas Frank
Harry Rudolph de Polo
Joseph Leo Russo
Willard Scolnik
Stanley Morton Wolf

Associate

Edward Paul Montano
Sponsors:
Isaiah Ehrlich and Robert F. Mueller

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